

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 4, 11, 28-30, 32 and 34-37, and 39-42 are pending with Claims 4, 11, 32 and 37 being independent. Claims 4, 11, 32 and 37 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, for example, in Figures 8, 9, 13, and 15 and the accompanying disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Requested Action

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections

At the outset it should be noted that according to the June 5, 2009 Interview Summary of a telephone interview, the Office Action inaccurately states that Claims 4, 11, 28, 29, 31-35, 37 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,324,226 (Fitz et al.). The Interview Summary indicates that Claims 4, 11, 28, 29, 31-35, 37 and 38 are instead rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,104,886 (Suzuki et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0016378 (Ozawa et al.). In addition, the Office Action rejects Claims 30 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of Ozawa et al. and U.S. Patent No. 7,324, 226 (Fitz et al.).

In response, while not conceding the propriety of the rejections, independent Claims 4, 11, 32 and 37 have been amended. Applicants submit that as amended, these claims are allowable for the following reasons.

Independent Claim 4 relates to a digital camera which has a memory for storing images, can be directly connected to a printer, and has a function of directly transmitting an image to the printer. The apparatus comprises a selection unit, a print instruction transmitting unit, an image transmitting unit, a reception unit, and a control unit. The selection unit is configured to select an image to be printed from among images stored in the memory, after communication between the digital camera and the printer is established. The print instruction transmitting unit is configured to transmit, to the printer, a print instruction indicating that the image selected by the selection unit is to be printed. The image transmitting unit is configured to transmit, in response to receiving from the printer a request for transmitting the image to be printed, the requested image to the printer. The reception unit is configured to receive from the printer a message indicating the status of the printer.

Independent Claim 4 has been amended to recite that the control unit is configured to (i), if the reception unit has received a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, until the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, display a message indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the image to be printed and keep the

communication connection between the digital camera and the printer, and (ii) if the reception unit receives the print completion message during the communication when the digital camera is connected to the printer, enable the selection of another image to be printed by the selection unit.

In contrast, the citations to Suzuki et al. and Ozawa et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest that a control unit is configured to, if the reception unit has received a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, until the communication is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been completed, display a message indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the image to be printed and keep the connection of the communication between the digital camera and the printer, as recited by amended Claim 4.

The Office Action admits that the citation to Suzuki et al. does not expressly disclose the control unit recited by Claim 4. For that reason, the Office Action cites the Ozawa citation. But the Ozawa citation is understood to disclose disconnecting the communication between a camera and a printer when the transmission of an image to be printed to the printer is completed, regardless of whether the printer is performing the print process, as disclosed, for example in paragraphs [0070] and [0075] thereof. On the other hand, amended Claim 4 recites that if the reception unit has received a reception end message indicating that all data of the image to be printed was received by the printer, until the communication is disconnected by the user's operation or the reception unit receives a print completion message indicating that the print process of the image has been

completed, a control unit displays a message indicating that the communication between the digital camera and the printer can be disconnected by a user's operation before completion of a print process, by the printer, of the image to be printed and keeps the communication connection between the digital camera and the printer. Moreover, the Suzuki et al. citation is also not understood to disclose or suggest this feature.

Since the citations to Ozawa et al. and Suzuki et al. are not understood to disclose or suggest at least one feature of amended Claim 4, the Office has not yet satisfied its burden of proof to establish a prima facie case of obviousness against amended Claim 4. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 4 be withdrawn. And because corresponding image-input-apparatus Claim 11 has been amended in a similar manner, it is allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claim 11 be withdrawn. And because corresponding method Claims 32 and 37 have been amended in a similar manner, they are submitted to be allowable for similar reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of amended Claims 32 and 37 also be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable, due to their dependency from the independent base claims, as well as due to additional features that are recited. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully solicited.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the application is now in allowable form. Therefore, early passage to issue is respectfully solicited.

Any fee required in connection with this paper should be charged to Deposit
Account No. 06-1205.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office
by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our
below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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